



www.studentsreinventingmichigan.com

A \$24,000 COMPETITION SPONSORED BY

“STUDENTS REINVENTING MICHIGAN”

\$10,000 GRAND PRIZE

\$5,000 SECOND PRIZE

Ten \$500 THIRD PRIZES

\$4,000 INSTRUCTOR PRIZES

The STUDENTS REINVENTING MICHIGAN Corporation is sponsoring an annual competition open to all undergraduate students attending Michigan universities, colleges and community colleges. Winners will receive cash prizes. The goal of the competition is to engage students in finding solutions to contemporary problems that face the Legislature and citizens of Michigan. Each year a different and challenging problem that faces our state will be chosen.

The topic for the 2011 competition is:

“How the Legislature Can Improve Michigan’s Infrastructure with Public Support in These Challenging Times?”

Michigan’s greatest resource is its young people. Over recent years many of Michigan’s sons and daughters who have graduated from colleges and universities have left the state because there are no job opportunities in Michigan. A further terrible result is that parents have seen their families separated by great distances with bright young people losing their roots. Students participating in this competition can help turn this trend around.

Michigan's transportation infrastructure is crumbling. Roads and bridges have been neglected for many years due to inadequate funding. An infrastructure in disrepair is detrimental to Michigan's economy.

The economic impact of a poor infrastructure is clear:

- **Companies don't want to locate in states with poor roads and bridges.**
- **Trucks and cars don't last as long on poorly maintained roads and bridges as they do on good roads and bridges.**
- **Maintenance costs for vehicles traveling on structurally deficient roads and bridges are higher than those traveling on good roads and bridges.**
- **Crumbling roads also negatively impact people that own older cars disproportionately.**
- **Tourism is negatively impacted by a highway system in disrepair.**

The list of problems caused by poor infrastructure goes on, but the most alarming effect is that a poor infrastructure results in unnecessary loss of life, debilitating injuries and property damage.

Public officials in the state of Michigan continue to grapple with this problem. Good roads cost money, and studies prove that investments in our infrastructure pay dividends over time. Unfortunately, the majority of Michiganders are unwilling to support increased road funding at this time.

Additionally, most people believe that all of the state's gas tax is currently dedicated to repairing roads and bridges – a misconception that must be corrected if the state is to move forward with addressing this significant challenge.

Another negative impact of inadequate highway funding is that the number of jobs in the highway construction industry has been in decline for many years. The losses are at every level, from laborers to engineers. There seems to be no end in sight to this downward spiral. Providing adequate levels of state highway funding will produce more than 240,000 construction and spin off jobs.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

2011

- **May 25th, 12: pm: Public Launch of the Competition**
- **The competition will be announced before the House and Senate Transportation Committee**
- **November 15th: Proposals Due**
- **Proposals must be submitted in writing or via the website**

2012

- **January 15th: All Award Announcements Made**
 - **TBD in February: Joint House and Senate Transportation Committee Presentation**
- All Awardees will be invited to present their proposals before the legislative committee**

HOW YOU PARTICIPATE

FIRST AND SECOND PRIZE – MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE

In order to solve the infrastructure challenges Michigan faces, a plan is needed that will be supported by the public and elected officials. Your objective in this contest is to develop that plan. Elected officials need new and fresh ideas. Develop your own idea as to how you would fund Michigan's infrastructure now and into the future in a way that Michiganders would support. Put your plan together and submit it. You may be a big part of Michigan's economic turnaround.

If you are the student or student team that submits a plan that is adopted by, or in large part similar to that used by the legislature you will be the first prize winner. If your plan is used in lesser part by the legislature you will be one of the up to five second place winners.

THIRD PLACE PRIZE – CREATE PUBLIC SUPPORT

Your goal is to create public support for increased infrastructure funding by using the media. Write letters to the editor of a magazine or newspaper. Additionally, you may have an article published in other print media or have an interview or related interaction with a radio or TV personality. The measure of this support will in part be determined by the number of positive responses, either written or verbal, that legislators or the media receive as a result of your efforts. The students that create the 10 most influential communications will be the third prize winners.

JUDGING AND PRESENTATION TO THE MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE

The judges of the competition will be a panel headed by Senator Tom Casperson, Chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee and Representative Paul E. Opsommer, Chairman of the House Transportation Committee. Both chairs, Senator Casperson and Representative Opsommer, will appoint two members, one democrat and one republican from their respective chambers to serve as judges for

the Students Reinventing Michigan Competition. The Chairs may each serve as a judge. In total there will be four judges for the competition.

First and second prize winners will be invited to present their plans to a joint hearing of the State Senate and House Transportation Committee.

CONTESTANTS AND REGISTRATION

- **An undergraduate student or team of undergraduate students as of May 25, 2011 and attending any Michigan university, college or community college is eligible to participate. If there is a participating instructor, the student contestant must have permission from the instructor to identify him or her as such.**
- **An instructor from any Michigan university, college or community college is eligible to participate with any student participant or group of participating students.**

- **Register on line at, www.studentsreinventingmichigan.com, or in writing to:**

**Students Reinventing Michigan
Attn. Linda Shea
2465 N. Lake Angelus Rd.
Lake Angelus , MI 48326**

- **Submit your proposal on line at, www.studentsreinventingmichigan.com, or in written form to:**

**Students Reinventing Michigan
Attn. Linda Shea
2465 N. Lake Angelus Rd.
Lake Angelus, MI 48326**

All entries must be received by November 15th, 2011

STUDENT PRIZES

- **There will be one first place prize winner. The first place prize winner will receive the Grand Prize of \$10,000.**
- **The second place prize winner will receive \$5,000. In case of ties there will be a maximum of 5 second prize winners. Second place prize winners will share equally in the \$5,000 prize.**
- **There will be a total of \$5,000 in third place prizes. Ten third place prize winners will receive \$500 each.**

INSTRUCTOR PRIZES

- The instructor of the Grand Prize winner will receive \$2,000.
- The instructor of the second prize winner will receive \$1,000. In case of ties the instructors will share equally in the \$1,000 prize.
- The instructors of the third prize winners will receive \$100 each.
- The winning instructors may receive a cash reward or have a contribution made in his or her name to a charity of his or her choice.

INFORMATION SOURCES

Use any source of information you can think of. Collaborate with fellow students and instructors. Contact the offices of your local Senator or Representative. You can locate your local legislators on line at www.votesmart.com. You must include the last 4 digits of your zip code to get an accurate response.

Search for printed material. The following can be a starting point:

- Transportation Funding Task Force – View the Final Report at <http://www.michigan.gov/tf2>
- Anderson Economic Group. Michigan's Roads: The Cost of Doing Nothing and The Rewards of bold Action
- A Study by the Pacific Institute for Research & Evaluation – On A Crash Course at www.pire.org/documents/PireStudyLowRes.pdf
- GAO Report to the Congressional requesters, 06/10/2010 – Highway Trust Fund – GAO – 10 – 780 <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10780.pdf>
 - www.michigan.gov
 - www.drivemi.org
 - www.mml.org
 - www.mi-ita.com

LEARN BY DOING

This competition offers an opportunity for students to learn outside of the classroom. It provides the contestant, with skills that are necessary to be successful in the legislative process. Whether you wish to be elected to political office, become familiar with the political process, be a part of Michigan's recovery or be helpful to your fellow Michiganders, this competition is for you.

Your bright young mind is needed right here for a strong Michigan. You are Michigan's hope for the future. You can be a big part of Michigan's turnaround.

This is a marvelous opportunity that can only happen in America. Direct your great energies towards participating in the legislative process. Develop skills before you graduate that other students will learn after they graduate.

We invite you to join the competition and good luck!

STUDENTS REINVENTING MICHIGAN is organized under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code (the “Code”), as a corporation not organized for profit but operated exclusively for the promotion of civic and social welfare, including promoting the education and training of students to recognize contemporary problems and propose solutions that will benefit the common good and general welfare of the community, and conducting all activities incidental or necessary to accomplish the foregoing purposes or otherwise permitted by Section 501(c)(4) of the Code.